

THE C4 NEWSLETTER

Colonial Coin Collectors Club

Billon Coinage



Summer 2000

Volume 8 Number 2

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Classified Ads

Ads for this newsletter can be purchased as follows:

	1 issue	2 issues	3 issues	Copy size
1 page	\$50	\$75	\$125	4-1/2"x 7-1/2"
1/2 page	30	45	75	4-1/2"x 3-3/4"

If you want to include a photo with your ad at an additional \$10. Black and white photo needed, size can be adjusted to fit. Please send check with your ad. We can accept camera ready copy or any Microsoft Word compatible computer file.

All members also have the right to include a free classified ad in the newsletter of up to 13 lines.



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Editor's Notes

Angel Pietri

Welcome to one more issue of the C4 newsletter!

I have two matters to address in this issue. The first one is simple. I have been repeating the unclassified ads from issue to issue. If any of you who has one included wants to delete it or make changes to it, please let me know. Otherwise the same one will continue appearing.

The second issue is more serious and it involves two letters that appeared in Penny-Wise that referred to C4. These were by Tom Reynolds and by Bill Noyes. It appears that these gentlemen are very upset by EAC's decision to use McCawley and Grellman (M&G) as auctioneers in their next convention. Let me first state that this is none of my business, and Tom and Bill can haggle with the EAC board all they want. However, they made some statements about C4's relation with M&G which I have to take issue with.

In his letter, Tom Reynolds states that "as a member of the Colonial coin Collectors Club, I was shocked to learn that the Club receives 2% of the hammer." Then, Mr. Reynolds has not been interested enough in C4 to read the newsletter or attend any of the club meetings, since this has been mentioned in both forums.

He goes on to state how in his opinion, M&G are taking advantage of C4 and making a huge profit. He forgets to take into account several expenses that M&G have to incur with the C4 sale. Just to mention one, not being colonial specialists, they have to pay others to do the cataloguing for the sale. This is not a minor expense.

Regardless of the correctness of his calculations, what is wrong with an auction company making a profit? We live in a capitalist society after all. If M&G can produce a first rate product for C4 (and they have), why should we begrudge them a profit?

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It is very easy to rush to criticize the C4/M&G deal after 5 successful auctions. However, before the first convention, when I was club president, nothing was assured. The convention was a gamble, and so was the auction. M&G agreed to take that risk.

What do we have to show for this risk? We have a very successful club, largely due to the success of the conventions and the auctions. We also have 5 reference catalogues in a nice, collectable condition, with multiple photos to use as reference in the future. With all due respect to Mr. Reynolds and Mr. Noyes, they compare very favorably to the throwaway catalogues of the EAC sales. Though they downplay the significance of this, I feel this is very important, and one of the main reasons the EAC board chose M&G.

But most importantly, C4 has a very healthy treasury, largely due to the success of the auctions. I may also add that the state of our treasury, considering that we have one-fourth the number of members that EAC has, compares very favorably to that of EAC.

Could C4 have done this on its own? Maybe, but I sincerely doubt it. The spark for our first auction was the Griffie New Jersey collection. Would John Griffie have consigned his collection to a C4 sale if we had gone alone and M&G was not involved? I doubt it. M&G had a reputation and was willing to hire an outside cataloguer (not their usual colonial cataloguers) at significant expense to meet the consignors condition. In addition, they used their contacts in the numismatic world to obtain other consignments and produce a whopping 500+ lots for the auction, a not often seen colonial gathering in numismatic history. C4, by itself, may have come up with 50-100 less than stellar lots, and produced a less than memorable auction with a throwaway catalogue.

Mr. Reynolds forgets that putting together a colonial auction is not the same as putting together an auction of cents and half-cents. The number of extant examples of the latter far outnumbers the number of extant examples of colonial coins, by several multiples. And EAC has 1200 potential consignors to C4's 200-300. In addition, colonial coins do not usually produce the huge bids that other type coins

bring at auction. It is fairly common knowledge that most major auction houses that carry colonials do so only because they feel it enhances their prestige and not because they bring a big profit. All you have to do is leaf through some of the colonial sales of the past few years to see that the number of plated coins in the colonial section is getting smaller every time.

And if M&G are getting such an outrageous profit from the C4 sale with a deal that is common knowledge, how come the C4 board is not being deluged by offers from other auction houses interested in taking over this function and reaping this windfall? The fact is they do not even have a presence in our conventions. Maybe Tom and Bill have the answer. If so, I am sure the C4 board would listen.

But the statement that "gets the cake" is Bill Noyes assertion that "financial statements are not printed in journals, and details are confidential". I would like to know where he obtained this information, since he is not even a member of C4. It could not have been from Tom Reynolds. Tom asked me before the EAC convention if I could show him the financial details of the club. As a member I felt he was entitled. I told him I would show him anything he wanted to see at the EAC convention. I traveled to Cape Canaveral with a box full of financial records, expense receipts, and the club checkbook and bank statements. Upon arrival at the convention, after a quick walk through the bourse, I went to Tom's table to tell him I had all the information to show him. This was met with a simple "I already know what I need to know". I had to merrily pack the box and take it back to Fort Myers. At least it had a good ride. Therefore Tom Reynolds knows that the information is not confidential, to him or to any member. My address, phone number and e-mail address are published in the newsletter. Any member who needs to know details of the club's finances need only to contact me. So Bill must have gotten his "scoop" from somebody else.

Any one who reads Penny-Wise is aware of the acerbic tone of some of the communications. Its leadership is lamenting the "malaise" that seems to be affecting EAC. It is this kind of bickering by its more

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prominent members that is responsible for this “malaise”. I can only hope that C4 never falls prey to this.



Message from the President

by Dennis Wierzba

Looking back over the last four years as President and the prior two as Regional Rep, I am proud to be associated with the growth of C4. We have sponsored five Conventions with five outstanding auction catalogs produced by M+G. “The Copper Coins of Vermont” by Tony Carlotto was our first C4 book publication and an extremely successful one at that. The Colonial Happening and our general meeting have highlighted our activity at the EAC conventions in recent years. Membership has increased from 200 to 325. Our treasury has grown from \$3000 to \$46,000.

At EAC2000, several great ideas came out of our general meeting. Bob Merchant set up an egroups.com site for us: C4online. This email group is open only to C4 members. Please join and give it a try. Use the hyperlink: <http://www.egroups.com/subscribe/C4online>. You can talk about colonials every day if you wish. The Club will purchase a high end digital camera for our photo library by November. Our cost per photo will drop significantly. Neil Rothschild is working on a plan to put our photo library on custom CDs.

We need colonial consignments for C4-VI.. At this moment, very few coins have been consigned. Get to your safety deposit box and send your extras to M+G Auctions, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] See our Convention details elsewhere in the newsletter.



New President-elect

The ballots have been counted and our new president-elect is Ray Williams. He will be assuming his duties after this summer's ANA convention. Good luck to Ray! I am sure he will do a fine job.

Ray Williams will nominate a replacement for Region 2 representative to the board.



2000 Dues Notice- Second Call

Some of you have already paid for this year (2000). Check your mailing label to verify your status. The two digits after your name represent the year you are paid up too.

Remember that this is only the second call. If you joined late in the year and feel you should not pay 'til later, it is OK. Subsequent issues will carry reminders, and as long as you are paid up by September you will not be dropped from the membership list. However the sooner everyone pays the less work for me, so I appreciate early payments. Thank you all for your support of the club.



C4 Convention VI in conjunction with the Bay State Coin Show

The following is the schedule for the 6th C4 convention this year.

Cocktail party- 8PM Thursday 11/16/00
Bourse-10AM-7PM 11/17-11/18/00
Education program starts 5PM on Friday 11/17
Education program Saturday AM
Auction 7PM Saturday 11/18

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Bourse and Auction lot pickup Sunday 10:30AM-4PM 11/19

For reservations call the Radisson Hotel, 200 Stuart St, Boston 617-482-1800 and ask for Bay State rate (\$125 single, \$135 double).

If you can help with lot viewing, contact Mike Wierzba
(Wierzba@shore.net or [REDACTED])

***C4 MEMBERS: WE ALL ENJOY THE AUCTION
EXPERIENCE. TAKE SOME TIME TO DIG OUT YOUR
EXTRA COLONIALS AND CONSIGN TO M+G TODAY.
CONTACT BOB GRELLMAN, 405-841-2213. THANKS***



Exhibiting at the C4 Convention in Boston

By Buell Ish

Last year, in the search for a way to enjoy the hobby during the lengthening periods between opportunities to add to my collection, I entered the realm of exhibiting. In addition to a most rewarding experience, I came home from the C4 convention with the position of C4 Exhibit Coordinator. A position for which I "volunteered". For my first official act in my new position, I would like to issue a call for exhibits. I understand exhibit space is somewhat limited.

If exhibiting at C4 interests you, please contact me:

Buell Ish

[REDACTED]

buell@vectrafitness.com

[REDACTED]

The exhibits at the 1999 C4 show were a major focal point of the convention. For the record, I'd like to list the exhibits and thank all involved. Hopefully this list will entice those who haven't yet

attended a C4 convention to come this year. The 1999 exhibits were as follows:

1. **ENGLISH HAMMERED AND MILLED SILVER**, by Richard August and Jim Rosen
Featuring complete sets of: Henry VIII, Elizabeth I, the Commonwealth, Charles II, and George III.
2. **THE COINAGE OF WILLIAM WOOD**, by Dave Menchell
Featuring Rosa Americana and Hibernia issues.
3. **NEW JERSEY COPPERS**, organized by myself
 - 15 collectors participating (alphabetical order): Buell Ish, John Lorenzo, George Lyman, Tom Madigan, Frank McGrath, Dave Menchell, Roger Moore, Dave Palmer, Clem Schettino, Roger Siboni, Tony Terranova, Dennis Wierzba, Mike Wierzba, Ray Williams, and Chris Young.
 - Maris varieties represented: 7-E, 10-G, 11½-G, 17-J, 18-M, 19-M, 21-R, 22-P, 24-I, 27-j, 30-L, 31-L, 34-J, 34-v, 35-J, 35-w, 38-c, 42-c, 42½-c, 45-d, 49-f, 50-f, 55-m, 56-n, 57-n, 58-n, 59-o, 66-v, 71-y, 73-aa (2), and a Running Fox colonial cuff link.



E-mail Groups Started

By Robert Merchant

A C4 e-mail group has been started at www.egroups.com. This e-mail group will allow all C4 members who have e-mail accounts to communicate online. The e-mail address is "colonial_coins@egroups.com". To register and join, simply navigate to the following page: <http://www.egroups.com/subscribe/colonial-coins>. You will have to register and then subscribe -- it's easy.

Some of the features that are available at [egroups.com](http://www.egroups.com) are:
-- [egroups.com](http://www.egroups.com) supports attachments (such as images) with e-mail messages.

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-- egroups.com gives each group 20 MB of free file storage space on their site. This is a very handy way to "post" images and other types of files that you don't want to send to everyone on the list via e-mail attachment. You can see the files that are stored for our group by clicking on the "Files" menu item.

-- There is a "Links" menu item that allows members to share interesting web pages with the group.

For all e-group tasks (once you have subscribed), just go to <http://www.egroups.com/group/colonial-coins> and use the menu on the left side of the page.

This e-mail group is open to the whole public. A separate e-mail group for C4 members only has also been started. To register and join go to <http://www.egroups.com/subscribe/C4online>. The e-mail address is C4online@egroups.com.



C4 Items for Sale

The Copper Coins of Vermont
And Those Bearing The Vermont Name
by Tony Carlotto

Regular edition price \$50 (add \$3 for shipping)
Send orders to:

John Lorenzo



By special order, Deluxe Hardbound Leather edition
with enlarged photo plates of all varieties \$200
Send orders for this edition to:

Dan Freidus



C4 Convention Items for Sale***Hardbound Scott Barnes Catalogs \$50******Hardbound Third and Fourth C4 Convention Catalogues \$50/ea.******Call or write Dennis if you are interested.***

Add \$3 postage and handling. All will be sent uninsured at buyer's risk. If you want insurance, add an appropriate amount. Please forward your check to Dennis, payable to C4, at the address below.

Fugio Plates (NEW)

Several copies of the Fugio obverses and reverses will be made available for sale at \$25 each set. They consist of three 8"X10" plates made from the original negatives used by Eric Newman for his book. They were made available to C4 courtesy of the Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society. If you want a copy, contact Dennis Wierzbza.

The Richard Picker Collection Lot Envelopes

Stack's has provided C4 with Picker's own customized envelopes from his collection sold in October 1984. They are available from the club for \$5 each if you can show adequate proof that you own the coin. This \$5 donation is for the club's treasury, thanks to Stack's. All unsold envelopes will be returned to Stack's. If you own any of these coins and would like to own the envelope, contact me at the address below.

Dennis Wierzbza

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Letters to the Editor

Two Ideas for Research Articles

From Mike Hodder

For the past 10 years or so I have been making notes in catalogue descriptions I've written about the attributions found inked on some Connecticut coppers. The attributions are found on the edge or on the obverse. The attributions are usually done in white lacquer. Sometimes, the numbering system used is Hall's, sometimes it's Miller's. The numbers are in more than one handwriting. The coins with attributions on them are often (but not always) in high grades for their varieties. In many cases more than one specimen of a particular variety has been "white inked".

Who did these white inkings? How many different collectors were involved? When were most of the coins inked? Why was this done at all? Does white ink on edge always mean a Hall Collection coin (hint, no!). The mystery of the white ink attributions would make a really good research topic. Would someone like to take it on?

Also, there's another topic that needs a good article. Namely, how much did Miller owe to Dr. Hall? The more I use Hall's study of CT's the more I realize that Miller could never have done his own catalogue if Hall hadn't done his, first. There are lots of hints in Miller that he borrowed a large part of Hall's work without really acknowledging the debt. There are also hints that Miller used an out of date version of Hall's manuscript, or else he wasn't careful in using what he had. We all use Miller when we attribute CT coppers but we don't usually think of Hall when we do. I think that should change.

Dr. Hall's contribution to collecting Connecticut's has not received the recognition it deserves. Does anyone want to champion a neglected colonial pioneer?

Michael Hodder



The Perkins sale

I collect Connecticut cents by die variety. I attended the George Perkins Stack's sale in New York City on February 12. George attended this sale, as was expected. I had not seen George for a couple of years. He looked fine, as did his lovely wife.

Timing of the sale was perfect. There had not been a big Connecticut sale since 1988. That was the time when the Oechsner sale was held in New York City on September 9, 1988.

Mike Hodder's fantastic record keeping skills were poured into the Perkins catalog. This catalog now takes its place as the foremost research source on Connecticut's, superseding everything of the past.

Others have covered highlights of this sale. I just want to relate to you a short personal tale that I hope you will find entertaining. Before the sale began, I thought I would tell George and his wife about something that happened between George and me at the Taylor sale.

Both of us were very active bidders at that sale. At one point, George must have gotten a bit teed off at me because we always seemed to wind up as the last bidders on many of the lots. I guess George decided to give me a run on a particular lot, and he really dug in for hard bidding. The coin of the moment was a lovely piece, worth about \$300.00. I ultimately won out.

I recanted this tale, asking him if he recalled the incident. He said he did not. I told him, "George, you forced me to pay four times what it was worth!" I said that with a big smile so that George and his wife would realize I was just retelling an incident that, in retrospect, was good fun for all.

“Well, George, you forced me to pay \$1,200.00. That price was four times its value. Now, after twelve years, it’s worth half of what I paid.” We all had a good laugh. The idea is that no matter what you pay for good numismatic material, sooner or later it will be worth what you paid for it, and hopefully, someday more than what you paid. That’s what we hope anyway. We had a good chuckle together, but soon the fun was cut short by the beginning of the present sale.

The sale was long and arduous because almost every lot was bid to the sky. After the last lot was knocked down, there was a lot of handshaking in the back of the auction room and congratulating all around. Everyone was very surprised that the prices paid were so strong.

In all the excitement and commotion, I never got to tell George the sequel to my tale. The follow up to the story of the coin that George ran me up on and made me pay four times what it was worth then, was now worth every bit of what I paid and then some! Now, twelve years later, at last, because of the strong prices realized in this sale, I not only got even dollar-wise, but I am a little ahead.

The wonderful world of numismatics has been very good to all of us.

Thanks, George. I hope you read this and like it.

Donald Groves



On British and Irish Coins and Counterfeits

Charles W. Smith (charless@maine.edu)

At the C-4 Convention November last, I volunteered to be a focus group coordinator for information concerning British and Irish coinage that circulated in North America in the 18th and early 19th centuries and issues concerning counterfeiting of coinage for that

some period. [Note: This is a correction to page 8. Volume 7, Number 4, on which I was listed a "British tokens in U.S." Since am not quite sure what that actually means and I am definitely certain I did not put my hand in the air in favor of it, I'll proceed with British and Irish coinage and counterfeiting in the 18th and early 19th century.]

An international symposium on "Counterfeiting: Ancient to Modern," sponsored by the Royal Numismatic Society, the British Museum, and The Society of Antiquaries, will be held September 14 - 15 in London. The meeting will consist of talks, posters, and displays. The proceedings will be published as a book by the Royal Numismatic Society in its series, "Metallurgy in Numismatics," as MINS. For additional information, please contact: Mr. Michael Cowell, RNS Symposium 2000, Department of Scientific Research, British Museum, London WC1 B 3DG, England or m.cowell@british-museum.ac.uk.

I want to call attention to three important and very readable articles.

The first, entitled, "The Circulation of Irish Coinage in Pre-Federal America" by P.L. Mossman, Colonial Newsletter 110, Volume 39, No. 1. April 1999, pp.1899-1917: lots of clearly developed historic context, ten figures, and a large table of data.

Second, a highly illustrated and wonderfully detailed article entitled, "Evasion Hybrids: The Missing Links" by Byron K. Weston, Colonial Newsletter 111, Volume 39, No.2, August 1999, pp.1945-1987: with 40 figures and a taxonomy chart.

Third, on the Internet, an excellent presentation entitled, "British Coinage Circulating in the Colonies," by Louis Jordan, Department of Special Collections at the University of Notre Dame. Log on to: www.coins.nd.edu and go to British Coinage Circulating in the Colonies.

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Finally, I would like to share an item of important news. The Coinage of the Americas Conference [COAC] proceedings for 1998, entitled, "Circulating Counterfeits of the Americas," is scheduled for publication by the American Numismatic Society this year. Former Executive Director, Les Elam, will coordinate the publication of this book. The publication of COAC 1998 was delayed, understandably, by the financial challenges facing ANS. It is heartening to us all to see that the long and distinguished commitment to numismatic publication remains in place at ANS and that the Society's priority remains to serve the numismatic community, even in difficult times. Thanks to all at ANS.



The Billon Coinage of Colonial America

By Robert A. Vlack

It is my purpose to discuss the billon coinage of Colonial America, and to be more specific, the 30 and 15 denier pieces sometimes referred to as 'Mousquetaires', and the 24 and 12 denier pieces better known as the 'sous marques' and 'half sous marques'. The areas in which these coins circulated is widespread, covering the eastern third of Canada, the Great Lakes region known as the Illinois Country, and finally the Mississippi Valley region, better known as the Louisiana Territory. Inasmuch as the entire area was dominated by the French, the coinage that circulated throughout the Canadian region was also used throughout the Louisiana Territory. Active trading flourished between the major port of commerce of the North, the city of New France, now known as Quebec, and the major port of commerce of the South, that of New Orleans. Trade between these two ports began as early as 1680 when LaSalle established a direct waterway between the Great Lakes region and New Orleans, and received from France a patent to carry on trade along these waterways. From that period on, several forts and Settlements were built along these waterways to serve as protection against hostile Indians, as trading posts for fur trappers and early farmers, and resting areas for commercial boatsmen. We are talking now of a highway over water stretching 2,000 miles through new territory. It

normally took three to four months to complete a one way journey. The French Province of the period knew of no boundary defining an area as Canada and another as something else. That all of this territory was united, there can be no doubt. There are countless records detailing the commercial aspects of the many convoys of small cargo boats that traveled up and down the Mississippi Valley and through all the great Northern rivers that connect the Great Lakes region to New Orleans. One must concede the point that with the establishment of commerce, the establishment of settlements, and the beginning of day-to-day living, there had to be development of a medium of exchange.

To begin with, practically all commerce was conducted basically on a barter system, I trade my goods for your goods. While this primitive system did work between Indians, fur traders, and commercial entrepreneurs, the average citizen was in need of metallic currency.

Ships sailing from France would go to the Northern port of Quebec during the summer months since Gulf of St. Lawrence was free of ice and the climate warm. During the winter months they used the Southern ports of Mobil, Biloxi, and New Orleans. Into these ports would flow the European goods required to support the colonists. In return, the ships would bring back to France raw products such as cotton, tobacco, indigo, all sorts of skins and furs from the Southern ports, and basically fur pelts and skins from the North. There is much in the way of documented requests for coins for the new French world. And while it has been suggested as being requested solely from the Canadian region, it is likewise documented that the officials at New Orleans also requested a badly needed coinage on a continuing basis. One might argue that the New Orleans region had much in the way of silver from the Spanish territories. While this is true in respect to Quebec, any silver that did circulate was quickly dissipated to the European markets, and little of it ever retained for any length of time in the French Province. The one exception was during the war with England in 1744 when it became unsafe to send Spanish silver to France for fear of capture. As a result, silver did remain in the French Colonies for about four years. Once the war was temporarily over, silver again disappeared from the Colonies and

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circulating specie was in demand. Needless to say, any remaining silver that did circulate was quickly hoarded since silver was the only measure of intrinsic wealth that would retain its value for future use. What then, could be done to satisfy the needs of a coinage for the Colonists? Certainly not silver, since it never lasted. This is borne out by the fact that the 1670 silver issue sent to the Canadian region consisting of 200,000 5 Sol pieces, and 40,000 15 Sol pieces disappeared within a matter of months after their issue. Even by raising their value by a third, by 1680, 10 years from the year of their being struck, they ceased to circulate, and were no where to be found. As a result, they were restored to their original value, but to no avail. With the disappearance of the 1670 silver issue so quickly from circulation, it no longer seemed desirable to drain silver from the mother country only to have it disappear from circulation in its overseas colonies. Copper coinage likewise proved to be ineffective for two reasons. When the 1721-1722 copper 9-denier issue was sent to both ports of commerce, there were two reactions. In the North, they were soundly rejected by the French merchants who preferred silver or billon to copper, and in the New Orleans region, the coinage was so exploited by speculators, that by 1723, it was declared worthless, the citizens preferring the white metal to copper. So, from Quebec, the 9 denier copper pieces that did not circulate were sent back to France, and in the Louisiana area, they simply disappeared, in all probability, to the French West Indies. The edict authorizing this coinage for the new world spelled out they were to be sent to New France, Louisiana, and the French West Indies, notably all the French Colonies in the new world. Any coinage that would follow would certainly be distributed in the same manner.

At this point we note that both silver and copper have been discussed, as well as the original means of transacting business through barter. There was other means of transacting business besides those already mentioned. During these early times, when barter was not convenient (for instance only one party was in agreement to supply goods, and the other party had nothing with which to trade) forms of paper currency such as Bills of Exchange, Treasury Notes, Orders on the Treasury, Orders on the Storehouse, contracts between individuals, Royal notes, and finally Card Money

was used. This form of exchange was certainly not satisfactory to all parties concerned, much of it became inflated with time, and by itself, undesirable since it never tolerated any sort of continual use. It was also easily counterfeited resulting in continual losses to a struggling society, and while specie or hard money supposedly backed some of it, this very often meant it was unredeemable except at an inflated discount. Now, much of this early rambling was presented for the purpose of putting the billon coinage into a perspective of the times.

Perhaps I should pause here to explain exactly what billon metal is. It is basically a composition of silver, tin, and copper, and depending upon the amount of copper put into the composition, could have the appearance of being silver. We shall see that the composition for the later sous-marques changed to a point where the billon coinage looked more like copper as more of the silver was left out.

I must first begin by mentioning that the earliest billon coinage sent to North America for distribution within the French Colonies had to be the counterstamped worn douzains of France. The counterstamp consisted of a fleur-de-lis surrounded by an oval of beads. These were authorized by an edict of 1640. Large quantities were struck, so many in fact, they are still available today. These became known as the first of the sols-marques. While the greatest number were struck over douzains of many reigns of French rulers, they were also found to be struck over any old billon coinage of other countries, for instance, the base coinage of England, the Papal State of Avignon, and the Netherlands. These were sent to the colonies and passed at a higher rate than France in an effort to retain this coinage from going back to France. Now, if you will recall, I mentioned that in 1723, the colonists in New Orleans preferred white metal to copper, they were obviously referring to the sols-marques.

The demand for coinage continued as the distribution over the North American colonies spread. As a result, a new edict in 1692 authorized the striking of new douzains for distribution in France, and if sent to the colonies, to be overstruck with the same fleur-de-lis within beads. These were already acceptable as an official coinage in

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the French Colonies. This practice was continued until 1700 though I personally have not seen any with a date later than 1697.

We can now refer to the first billon coinage to be officially designed and struck for the French Colonies in North America. To satisfy the constant demands of the French Colonial officials, the first billon coinage of 30 deniers and 15 deniers pieces were struck at the Metz and Lyon mints in France. These were struck between the years 1709-1713 inclusive and were originally referred to as "sols-marques". We now refer to them as "Mousquetaires" due to their resemblance to the voided cross on musketeers tunics worn over a knight's armor. This coinage appeared to fill the needs of the colonists very nicely since it looked like a official coinage and as a result, became readily acceptable.

To further identify this coinage as early American as well as early Canadian, on October of 1735 and 1736, 6,000 livres per year in sols-marques were sent to New Orleans. Governor Bienville of Louisiana immediately requested the value of this coinage to be increased by 1/5 to retain this coinage in the colonies. Thus, by 1738, the sols-marques had been officially reduced in value in France from 30 and 15 Deniers to 18 and 6 respectively, and in 1744, this devaluation was put into effect in the colonies.

In 1738, requests by both Governor Bienville for not less than 12,000 to 15,000 livres of sols-marques be sent to Louisiana and by Governor Hocquart for 6,000 livres in sous be sent to the Canadian region. Note that these pieces are referred to as sols-marques in the South, and Sous in the North. One can guess where the terminology sous-marques now originated.

Regarding the coins themselves, the sols-marques, or "Mousquetaires" are about the diameter of a current nickel and slightly thinner than a dime. The obverse legend reads Louis XIV, King of France and Navarre, with a date and mintmaster's different. This legend surrounds back to back Roman L's, crowned, and between two fleur-de-lis with a third one below. The reverse legend reads Piece of 30 or 15 Deniers, a mintmark (AA or D), and the chief

engravers different, all surrounding a plain voided cross. There are three pellets above each arm of the cross, and a fleur-de-lis in each quarter. Anyone with a Red Book can note these since they are illustrated along with the sous-marques in the early Colonial Section.

It is now obvious that this coinage, however scarce, became the circulating medium of the French Colonies for many years. The demand for this coinage continued to grow as commerce in the colonies grew, and while this coinage looked like silver, it had very little intrinsic value as compared to silver. It therefore remained in the colonies rather than being sent back to France, and thus served the colonists as specie, though there was never enough for any length of time.

One of the disadvantages of this coinage was the fact that it was made of billon. Being of soft metal, it wore very quickly and probably disappeared from circulation more for that reason than any other. Obviously it too was hoarded since it was of hard specie, and was far more preferable than card money. While this coinage has never been officially accepted in Canadian reference books, the more knowledgeable in this field feel it is only a matter of time that it is granted its just recognition.

We can now direct our attention to the 24 and 12 Denier pieces also known as double sols and Sols, or, sous-marques and half sous-marques. This coinage was struck in France between the years 1738 to 1764 inclusive. With demands from both the Northern and Southern regions of the French Colonies for a coinage continually increasing, Louis XV finally issued an edict in 1738 authorizing the mintage of the sous-marques from all the French mints then in operation. I have recorded for 1738, that at least 25 of these mints complied with this request, and that by 1739, every French mint had begun striking this series. The 1739-1740 years are to be considered as the peak years of output, and then progressively, these mints decreased their output. By the year 1752, only the Paris mint, and occasionally the Strasbourg mint, continued striking this coinage. By 1763, with the whole of the French Colonies in Canada and

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Louisiana Territory ceded to the English, the need for this coinage was no longer necessary, and finally was discontinued in 1764.

The coins themselves are slightly smaller in diameter than the sols-marques, and of the same thickness. The obverse reads basically the same as the previous coinage, Louis XV (instead of XIV) by the Grace of God, King of France and Navarre, with the mintmasters different separating the legend at the bottom. The legend surrounds a crowned Roman L, and two fleur-de-lis on the sides, and one below the L. On the reverse, the legend reads SIT NOM DOM BENEDICTUM, or Blessed be the Name of the Lord, followed by the chief engravers different and finally the date on top. The mintmark separates the legend at the bottom of the coin, and in all cases, the mintmark or the differentials will identify where the coin was struck. The legend surrounds a very script L and crossed with what appears to be an olive branch, and a crown above.

In the earlier years of issue, this coinage was struck in good billon, but, as the years progressed, more copper was put into the composition and less silver, and in many cases, the coinage was silver washed, for obvious reasons. The one exception to this was those struck at the Paris mint where some degree of standardization was maintained, and even the last 1764 issue was of good billon. This was not absolutely consistent for every year, but at least the better pieces were struck in Paris

The striking of the half sous-marques was far less in number than the sous-marques, and probably accounts for their rarity. It is also probable the half sous-marques never really were sent to the North American colonies. The only extensive year of production was 1740 when practically all mints had struck this coinage, but basically 1740 was it.

Now the question is, what happened to all of these coins? Because of the continued demand in British Canada, those that remained in Canada were accepted as farthings. Those that were returned to France between 1760 to 1762 were stored as planchets. For the record, almost 79 million of the sous-marques and 2.5 million of the

half sous-marques were struck. Since they were never current in France and were struck only for distribution in the colonies, they were demonetized in 1763. Those that were returned to France from Canada between 1760-1762 were overstruck with a crowned "C" and sent to the French West Indies. Walter Breen stated that 6 million were struck in this manner. These coins inherited the names of "black doggs", "sols tampees", or just plain "stampees". The black doggs were so named referring to the fact that billon turned black because of the salty environment of the islands. Now, the sous-marques that remained in the New Orleans area and not sent back to France remained current in the area as late as 1826 where they passed at 7 centimes.

Because of the acceptance of the sous-marques in the French Colonies and the fact that the demand was never satisfied several forms of counterfeits appeared. The most unusual involved the making of actual dies to resemble worn sous-marques and bore the dates of 1749 and 1769 (there are no genuine specimens of 1769), and both bore the Paris mintmark. Where they were struck is unknown to me but it has been suggested they came from the Birmingham mint in England.

In 1781, large quantities of the returned sous-marques were used as planchets and overstruck as 3 sous for use in the Isle de France and Isle de Bourbon which are two small islands off the East coast of Africa. To date, all specimens observed by me show indications of the undertype as being that of the genuine sous-marques.

In 1782 another group of the returned sous-marques was likewise used as planchets and overstruck as 2 sous for use in Cayenne also known as French Guiana. The acceptance of these coins in the French sector of the West Indies was so effective that another striking was authorized in 1789. Other than the official dates of 1782 and 1789, others are known consecutively from 1780 to 1789 and these may or may not have had some official sanction. They are all considered very rare with the exception of those dated 1782 and 1789.

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Knowing now that many of the 1782 and 1789 Cayenne pieces were struck over the sous-marques and that these coins were so acceptable all over the West Indies, the next step was to counter-stamp them for use in the individual islands, whether they be French, English or Dutch. This means that all specimens that were counterstamped for use in Guadeloupe, Montserrat, Nevis, St. Bartholomew, St. Eustatius, St. Kitts, St. Vincent, Tobago and Tortola all conceivably have a sous-marque lurking as an undertype. To compound all this, several specimens have multiple counterstamps as they were accepted from island to island. They also passed at multiple denominations depending on what country they represented.

So there you have basically the life and times of the billon coinage struck for use in Colonial North America. These coins are obviously American as well as Canadian or French, but how these coins came to be neglected for so long by numismatists is somewhat of a mystery. After all, what more can a collector ask for in such a series? First of all they satisfy collecting by dates since they were struck in every year between 1738 to 1764, consisting of 27 years for the sous-marques and 7 years for the half sous-marques. For the more advanced collector, there are 29 different mintmarks totaling approximately 248 different date and mintmark combinations, and 33 different of the half sous-marques. To satisfy overdate collectors, this series abounds in overdates with at least 64 different overdates including 5 double overdates. For a complete type collector of dates, mintmarks, and overdates, I have recorded approximately 315 different for the sous-marques and 33 of the half sous-marques. I have no doubt that others exist as new specimens are occasionally being discovered even to this date.

I've neglected a number of points throughout this talk and I would like to take this opportunity to briefly discuss these. First of all, I mentioned differentes. What in the world are differentes? These are heraldic symbols used by the engravers, die sinkers and the Directors of the mints. They are better known in this country as hallmarks. Normally our coinage carries initials to identify the engraver or designer. Theirs carried symbols such as birds, lions, hearts, stars, mullets and all sorts of interesting little figures. Identifying what they

were was a problem and who they belonged to even more of a problem. However, many of these questions have now been answered. A few still are questionable.

The obverse of the coin usually carried the different of the Director of the mint, and on the reverse, that of the Chief Engraver. In some years, take for instance the 1739 issue from the Troyes mint there are at least three different combinations of differentials making this series intriguing. The reason for this was the changes in the Directors or Chief Engravers. As they were appointed to their respective office, they would introduce their identifying symbol.

Another point I wish to discuss are the counterfeits, how do they fit into the picture? Well, believe it or not, I think I have seen more counterfeits over the years than genuine specimens, but they are not to be confused with what may be current counterfeits. These are apparently contemporary counterfeits made during the time of issue and apparently circulated side by side with the genuine issue. The counterfeits were basically struck in copper, some with silver plating or wash, and presumably struck in the French Colonies since most of the identifying differentials were either too crude an imitation or didn't even match the correct differential. That many dies were made is indicated by the number of different varieties known. For instance, specimens from the so-called Paris mint dated 1755 has at least 6 different die combinations, 3 different from Strasbourg dated 1751, 5 different from LaRochelle in 1742. To date have documented at least 31 different counterfeits of just the sous-marques alone. There are also quite a number of the Mousquetaires as well. These certainly would not have fooled the French in Europe, but for the colonists in need of specie, they certainly were accepted since most seen by me were well worn from circulation. One hoard of 1742 from the LaRochelle Mint was discovered in Canada several years ago. It appeared to be struck in iron or some off beat metal and silver plated is by far the most common today. Several die varieties exist of these counterfeits and can be found in very choice condition leaving me to believe these were not contemporary. While I dislike copies and counterfeits, I feel obligated to accept most of these counterfeits since they were of the time, and even by a crude assumption on my

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part, some of them could have even been authorized for striking in the French Colonies where the need was so desperate. I have no proof of this but it is a logical assumption based upon the needs of the time.

I would also like to briefly mention the rarity of this series since this is an age old question among numismatists. I would say that basically the counterfeits are somewhat common since I have seen many offered for sale over the past decades. Of genuine specimens, I would call most of them at least rare for a date collection and many undoubtedly very rare. For almost 30 years I have been continually recording all of the specimens I have seen and have been updating the rarity scale as time goes by.

Finally, I have left many of the nitty-gritty details out of this talk in an effort not to bore you with mintage figures, weights, denominations and other coins of billon that found their way to the colonies, but instead, tried to present this as simple as possible. I trust that in some way this sadly neglected series will come into it's own as being a very integral part of our numismatic heritage.



Butternut Bites: #5 Driving with Coins

By Colonel Steven Ellsworth

(This is the second of five articles regarding collector security for coins.)

Few full time coin dealers with 10 years experience have avoided being a victim of theft. Some simply lost coins from shoplifting while others were victims of murder to obtain their coins and collections. Some make the headlines, but most are never reported. Next to homes, vehicles are the most likely place for a theft to occur.

As I have previously written in an earlier security article, "one out of three collections will eventually be stolen. The impact is not only financial, but emotional as well. A sense of violation occurs that is difficult to describe. The loss has a negative impact to the victim in

particular and to our hobby in general. Simply put, it's bad for business.

The age-old adage "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" could never be truer, than with security. The easiest way to prevent crime is to avoid it by not giving criminals the opportunity to perpetrate crimes against you.

In hopes of keeping the "joys of collecting" enjoyable and the dreams alive, these guidelines hopefully will help you reduce the risks of theft, for collectors and dealers alike. After studying hundreds of thefts, it is my belief that nearly always, one or more of these guidelines have been ignored. Security risks can never be eliminated, but risks can be managed to a tolerable level. Vigilance must always be maintained, as security is a constant. Be alert and aware of your surroundings. This alone can be an excellent defense, as criminals avoid vigilant persons.

Some of these suggestions you may already know about but may not practice. Some suggestions may be new, that you could put into practice. Few people can do all that I recommend, but the more you can implement the lower your risk of being a target, and perhaps being a victim. My recommendations and suggestions can be useful to most collectors and dealers...if they will continually practice and apply them to their own situations.

Most security can be divided, and developed into four parts: operational security, perimeter security, external security and interior security.

Operational security would be how you operate or referred to as "your mode of operation". You need to ask yourself: "What kind of target am I presenting?" Perimeter security is considered in the immediate area near the target...you, and your valuables. As an example, while in your car, the area that you can physically observe in all four directions would be considered the perimeter. External security is considered the outside shell or walls of your home or car. Internal security would be inside your car or home, or anywhere you

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can physically touch your coins. Your objective should be to try to think in ways you can improve and protect each of these four areas.

Security is a personal responsibility. Your security is not the responsibility of the police, politicians or government. They do not have the means or intentions to protect every citizen. Unless you are willing to cast your fate, and life, to the wind, your first line of security is you.

Insurance is an excellent idea for both collectors and dealers. The normal costs are approximately 1% a year. For professional collectors and dealers, this cost is a deductible expense. Most policies have a number of restrictions and exceptions including coins left in unattended vehicles. Some homeowners' policies will cover a small coin theft, but many have exclusion clauses. Read your insurance policy carefully.

At major coin shows, larger firms sometimes use armored transport for inventories and collections. At some, professional numismatists use US Postal Service registered mail or insured Federal Express to reduce the risk of loss. Be sure to keep in mind that the Postal service has a maximum dollar amount for each registered piece of mail of \$25,000. This may require sending multiple packages. Never send valuables certified mail. There is no recovery process on certified mail should it be lost. If feasible, consider these options, even if you use these services only occasionally. It may be worth the extra effort and expense to explore the logistics of them.

As with most types of security, traveling with coins the five P's are in effect. Prior Planning Prevents Poor Performance.

Operational:

Never, leave coins unattended in a vehicle! This is perhaps the single greatest security mistake you can make. I have talked with hundreds of dealers and collectors who have made this mistake. I have learned of collectors who parked their car in clear view, while they dined having supper, only to be able to see how fast the thieves worked

entering their car and stealing their coins. Some professional car thieves can enter your car faster than you can with a key. Coins have been stolen out of cars in the process of loading and unloading them from the vehicle. Coins have been stolen out of vehicles parked at home, in a locked garage. Coins have been stolen from stalled vehicles on the roadways. The list of how and where coins have been stolen from vehicles is countless. **If you get only one thing from this article, remember...never, never leave coins or valuables unattended in a vehicle!**

When transporting coins and valuables in a vehicle, put on your very best driving hat. Be very alert, and drive defensively. Try to keep night driving to a minimum. Your reaction time is slower in most circumstances. Study the road map and route you are planning to drive. Plan checkpoints and safe havens, and the distance to each. Keep on your planned course or route. Decide early where you plan to fuel, eat, (use only a drive through eatery), or take a rest break. Know where your choke points (where you are most vulnerable) are, and have a plan in mind should your worst fears come to fruition. I would use backward planning, beginning with your arrival at home. Your home arrival may be the most obvious and most vulnerable choke point you have. Prioritize each so you will be even more vigilant at the most critical choke points.

If possible, try to avoid travel alone. Traveling with a companion will lower your risk of being a target by 70%. In the U.S. Army's Ranger School you always travel with a "Ranger Buddy", even on survival exercises. Traveling with a dog also will decrease your security risk (they also smell better than most of my former Ranger Buddies after three weeks without a bath).

Try to vary your routine. Avoid easily observed routines. If every day you depart your home at 9:35AM, drive the exact same route, to the same destination, and return using the same route, you're broadcasting to the dumbest thief they have an opportunity for success. I had one dealer boast to me that after every weekend show, the first task he does on Monday morning is to be at his bank as they open, right at 9AM, to place his inventory in the bank's vault.

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When I mentioned that a dirty little secret of the American Banking Association is the staggering number of robberies in bank parking lots and at ATM's, his reply was, "I bank in a good neighborhood". If I were a bandit, I would prefer the better neighborhoods to the poorer ones, as my rate of return for my risk would more likely be better.

If you ever have the opportunity to enroll in a professional driving course, do it. What you learn will not only be valuable in your work but will also make you a better and safer driver on the roadway. The premier course is the Bondurant School of High Performance Driving, in Phoenix Arizona. Many major corporations and government agencies use them. In addition to teaching racing and stunt driving, they also offer a specialized program for executive protection that works well for security during transport of valuables. (WARNING: Should you take a performance driving school and advertise it on your car with stickers or license plate holders it will insure that you will never receive just a warning ticket for a traffic infraction, but an instant citation).

One thing you quickly learn in a professional driving environment is that driving is 100% focus and concentration. Statistics will tell you that driving an automobile is the most dangerous task individuals do on a daily basis. An insurance actuary will tell you the single most dangerous driving situation is driving in front, behind or near a truck with a 40-ft. trailer. If you are in the habit of driving down the road, drinking coffee, smoking a cigarette, tuning the radio and talking on a cell phone, you can't possibly drive safely. You not only are at risk, but you are putting at risk everyone else on the highway.

After you have mastered driving with both hands on the wheel, you are now ready to improve on the second most violated driving rule, following too close behind another vehicle. At 25mph, it is difficult to make a quick lane change to avoid an accident with less than 4 car lengths. At 65mph, unless you are a professional driver, you would be lucky to perform the maneuver in 10 car lengths.

The third major cause of accidents is too high a speed for the existing conditions. One of the greatest auto racers of all time was Sterling Moss. His most famous quote sums it up: "When approaching a turn, slow in... fast out, or fast in... dead out".

After speaking with numerous state troopers, I would recommend that you follow the "seven" rule. Try to avoid driving more or less than seven miles per hour from the posted speed limit. Driving either faster or slower may attract the attention of other drivers, or the police. If you have used alcohol or taken medications that may cause drowsiness, simply do not drive. Using your seatbelt prior to placing the car in gear is a given.

One clear advantage you will have over potential perpetrators is that while you are reading and putting into practice this article on security, they are most likely getting high on drugs and alcohol in preparation, or building courage, to perpetuate a crime against you.

Perimeter:

Make it a practice driving in a right lane. Do not drive in the left lane, except to pass. You will not only impede faster drivers, but could solicit road rage. This is a situation that definitely does not qualify as a safe and secure trip. Try to be as low key as possible while traveling with valuables. Your objective is to travel from point A to point B without an incidence. Should you inadvertently irritate another driver, avoid eye contact and continue to drive. If you sense any escalation in the situation, slow down and let the other driver proceed. If you are still concerned, let the other vehicle precede you past an exit, then exit your vehicle and reenter the hi-way at another point, providing you can do it safely. Under no circumstance should you involve yourself further in a potential road rage situation.

Be very cautious and aware of being followed by another vehicle. When you are driving on highways, travel at different speeds for 20 to 30 minutes. A vehicle following you while traveling at a slower rate is more obvious than one traveling at a faster rate. During the first hour of travel, take an exit, and then return back on the highway.

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If you are being followed, it will make it difficult for a bandit to follow. If you suspect you are being followed, exit, and make a right turn. If you are still concerned, make a second right turn. If you are still followed, you may have a problem. Should you make a third right turn, and are still being followed, you are! Do not stop. Under no circumstances should you drive to your home or hotel. If you feel your assailant knows you are aware of being followed, and your decision is to evade, place your emergency flashers on as it will make following more difficult. Night or day, your breaking points on turns will be disguised. If at all possible, drive directly to the nearest police or fire station.

If in an extreme case where you are forced off the road by an assailant, or are confronted by an unauthorized roadblock, in all circumstances, do not stop your vehicle. If you can't drive around or away from your assailants, perform either a forward or reverse 180-degree turn to avoid being forced to stop. This maneuver is not as difficult as it may look, if you have the proper training. If you have no way to drive away, you may be forced to drive through the roadblock. Knowing where to make contact with another vehicle to disable it and minimize damage to your own vehicle is critical. Most cars can sustain far more damage in the rear of the vehicle than to the front, and still be able to proceed. If the bandits have gone to that extent to stop you, your life will likely be expendable. Use your cell phone to summon help, but under no circumstance should you stop your vehicle. Even if you are carrying a weapon, and have been trained in it's use, it would be near impossible to use it while driving a vehicle and still maintain control. Your best form of defense is your own driving ability.

Should an identifiable police car stop you, signal and pull over and off of the far right side of the road, out of traffic and place your emergency flashers on. Turn your engine off and remain in your vehicle with both your hands on the wheel, clearly in view. If an unmarked police car signals you, use your turn signal to move to the far right lane (where you should be driving to begin with), and use your arm to signal the car to move up alone side of you. If you can identify a uniformed police officer, then signal and pull over and off

of the right side of the road, out of traffic and place your emergency flashers on. Leave your engine running; remain in your vehicle with both your hands on the wheel, clearly in view. Watch the officer approach and insure the stop is by an authorized law enforcement officer, before shutting off your engine.

What if you cannot identify an uniformed police officer or the individual is also in plain clothes? Put your emergency flashers on but do not pull over. Use your car or cell phone and dial 911 to insure that the stop is authorized. If it is an authorized stop, they will call for backup by a marked police vehicle, driven by a uniformed officer. Only after you are assured that it is an authorized stop, should you pull over and stop.

At this point, the officer has the right to ask questions of you concerning the operation of your vehicle. If the questions go beyond operation of your vehicle, I would be very cautious in answering them. Simply informing the officer that you wish to be represented by legal counsel who may refute a question that may elicit self-incriminating information from you. What if the officer asks for your voluntary consent to search your vehicle? Many motorists think that if they refuse permission, it is a sign of guilt and willingly sign a consent form. I would advise against giving permission for a search. For an officer to conduct a legitimate search of a vehicle, they must have "probable cause." The courts have made it clear that a routine traffic stop does not provide the officer with enough probable cause to search your vehicle without your permission.

If the officer still were intent on searching your vehicle, I would calmly explain that you are carrying valuables and that should an unauthorized search be conducted that the insurance company will require a complete written inventory. I would provide a business card and make it clear that you are carrying approximate 2,000 individual items, of which each will need to be inventoried and signed by both you and the investigating officers. The estimated time of the required inventory will be approximately 8 to 10 hours and will need to be conducted in a secure facility, not on the side of the roadway. The company that insures your collection may be willing to provide

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you with a letter, identifying you as their insured customer, and listing this requirement. I know of few patrol officers that would look forward to 8 to 10 hours of paper work, unless there were substantial probable cause.

External:

Do a visual inspection of the exterior of your vehicle to look for any signs of tampering. Keep the vehicle clean so that any new smudges or marks can be seen. You can also use a small strip of clear cellophane tape to detect openings or tampering. Conduct a close visual inspection of your tires as well as the tires pressure. Look at the inside, edges and surfaces for punctures or devices, which will disable your vehicle latter. Look beneath the car, under the engine to see if any fluids are leaking. A favorite is for a bandit to puncture a radiator hose with a nail or awl. After 100 or so miles the rubber expands, causing your coolant to flow out, which will shortly overheat the vehicle, requiring you to pull off the road. When you are pulled off the road you are a very vulnerable target.

After you have traveled as far as possible with the full tank of gas, and need to refuel, select a location that you can fuel directly at the pump with a credit card. Again, keep your vehicle locked during the fueling process. When you are at a secure facility, use the restroom just prior to loading your coins in the car, even if you don't need to. It may be hours till a secure opportunity later allows it. If you must use a restroom, and are traveling alone, be sure to park in clear view of the attendant. If you feel it appropriate ask them to keep an eye on your car, while you use the restroom, do so. Avoid state highway designated rest stops. In the past, they have attracted petty thieves. Do not stop in a high traffic truck stop. These actually may attract a higher rate of car and truck break-ins. When parking your vehicle, turn your front wheels to a sharp angle to make it more difficult to tow away.

If you feel yourself getting tired, stop at a national hotel/motel chain. The expense is nothing, compared to the potential loss of property or life. No matter where or when you park your vehicle, always back

into the parking place. Should you have to make a rapid departure, it is faster than having to reverse first, which is much slower.

As you drive, try to leave yourself a way out. Avoid getting boxed in so you do not have an escape route. Stop signs and lights are particularly dangerous. When in city traffic, drive in the center lane, or whichever lane gives you the best escape route. When required to stop at stoplights and signs, do not pull up directly behind the cars bumper in front of you. If you are stopped and are approached by someone on foot whose hands are not in clear sight, if you can safely do it, drive away to avoid the incident, even if it requires you to drive through the traffic light or stop sign.

Some collectors have been victims of an intentional accident in order to distract them to steal their collection. "Car bumping" has been most prevalent in California, New York, Chicago, Miami and Houston. Keep the doors locked and windows up and pepper spray dispenser in close proximity. If a pedestrian approaches you, have it ready to use should the harmless pedestrian turn out to be an attacker who may break your window. However, you still would be safer to drive out of potential dangerous situation than to defend yourself.

If you are involved in a car jacking, immediately give up your car. Numerous people have been injured trying to resist. If however, during the car jacking, you are ordered back into your vehicle, do not do it, even if the bandit is armed. Your survival statistics are better that you are injured in a struggle to prevent kidnapping than to be kidnapped which will nearly always result in your being killed.

Internal:

I am sometimes asked what kind of vehicle is the most secure. Few people can afford to immediately go out and buy a new vehicle to transport coins. However, it would make good sense when purchasing a new vehicle to consider the vehicles safety and security systems, both passive and active. Many government agencies use either the GMC or Chevrolet Suburban. Both can be easily modified with additional security and safety options. Both the BMW and

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Mercedes have optional locking systems and optional non-breakable windows that make it very difficult to penetrate. Somewhere between driving down the highway in a convertible with your hair in the wind, and your coins on the back seat, or to the extreme of traveling by an armored tank, is your own personal security solution.

What can you do to improve the security of your present vehicle? Insure you have a full tank of gas in your vehicle, prior to loading your coins, traveling to or from a coin show. High-test fuel gives you slightly better performance, a consideration for the return trip. Use a locking gas cap to prevent unwarranted fuel contamination. If your hood does not lock from the inside, get an internal lock installed. Dark tinted glass also helps to conceal your cargo. If your car has a vanity plate, especially ones that identifies you as a collector, replace it. They are too easy to be remembered and too easily followed. Remove all bumper stickers that identify you with anything that could be remotely controversial.

Join AAA or other roadside assistance service. Don't try to fix a flat while transporting valuables, as that may be the opportunity the bandits are waiting for. Be sure to have your vehicle maintained regularly. Replace the tires, hoses and brakes a little earlier than you normally would. The last thing you need is a breakdown. Keep road flares, flashlights and a fix-a-flat aerosol can (it may be valuable in some dangerous road situations), in easy access. There are also some new brands of tires that will allow you to continue to drive, even after a puncture or blowout.

An auto alarm is excellent. Use an ignition or computer shut-off switch type that disables the car. This will prevent the car's theft with your coins inside. A thief will not have to unload your coins, if they can simply steal your car. Place the alarm warning stickers on two windows. I know of two situations where coins were a bonus to a common auto theft. One dealer I know went into a 7-11 to get a cup of coffee, left his keys in the car with the engine running. When he returned, his car with his coin inventory was gone. He called the police, who later found his car, with his entire inventory still in the

trunk of his car, undisturbed! This may qualify for the most careless case study I know, and also the luckiest.

A cell or car phone is a must. Pre-load the Highway patrol emergency numbers of the states that you will travel, for instant assistance. It never ceases to amaze me how quick state troopers respond, even in what appears to be a remote area. Some of the newer cell phones have the ability to scan the nearest 911 numbers from your location. In an emergency, you can even leave the phone on so the operator can monitor your situation. Use some discretion when using a cell phone discussing coin business, as these can be easily scanned with the use of simple electronic devices purchased at most radio or electrical outlets.

When packing your vehicle, always remember, “Coins in last when departing. Coins out first, when arriving.”

Try to keep the passenger compartment or your car free of any loose article that may become a missile in an accident. Lock your coins and cases to your vehicle. A simple eyebolt can easily be installed at any garage attached to the frame of your car. Use a sheathed, coil bicycle lock. It will make a bump, snatch and run more difficult. Bolt cutters normally can't cut one. It will take most thieves over an hour to cut through it with a hacksaw. The handles of the cases are the weakest point. But without a handle, heavy cases are very difficult to carry. Overload the cases to be as heavy as possible. I figure that there may be 10,000 robbers who could probably out-run me, but none carrying a 100 lb. case using both their arms.

Be sure to lock your car doors immediately after entering your vehicle. An important point to remember is that **you are far more likely to be a target returning home from a coin show than traveling to one.**

Firearms:

Traveling with firearms in vehicles presents numerous problems for a citizen who desires to comply with the law. Unfortunately, there is little consistency in state firearm laws in regards to travel. Well

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meaning politicians have passed over 20,000 gun laws in the United States that have little, if any effect on the perpetrators of violent crime, but enormous ramifications on the average honest law abiding citizen who wishes to defend themselves. If your decision is to carry a firearm while traveling, I would thoroughly research out the laws in your state and local area, and any areas you plan to travel prior to doing so. You should do everything possible to comply with the law and still maintain your own comfort level of security. I would then get proper training from a certified National Rifle Association instructor on the use of firearms. And only then would I even consider the purchase of a weapon. There is now available a portable combination lock box which has a removable base plate that can bolted to your vehicle, to secure the weapon, making transport of a gun legal in most states. An additional base plate can also be used to secure the unit safely in the home or office.

Knowing that your best defense is driving away, around or through a situation, it may pay to put your money in a driver's seat designed for driving, with four point adjustable seat belts rather than a weapon.

We all make mistakes. But try to avoid repeating the same security mistakes. If you have violated your own security procedures and have not been a victim, consider yourself lucky. But to continually violate your own known security procedures consider yourself a target. Should you want to gamble, try Las Vegas. Since you know going in that you will lose, there is less stress and at least they may give you a free drink in the process, to help numb the loss.

This paper is not intended in any way to be a legal or tactical guide. All information is from open non-restricted sources. Your thoughts and ideas are always welcomed. Address them to: Colonel Steven Ellsworth, do BUTTERNUT, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] E-mail: Butternut@gslink.com.
Web Site: WWW.Butternut.org.



The Colonial Rarity Scale- New Jersey Coppers

By Dennis Wierzba

This is a follow up and a revision of my initial presentation on the subject in the Winter, 1998 issue (Vol. 6, No.4) of the newsletter. I have continued work on my database of New Jersey coppers using all major and minor NJ sales starting with Maris, together with the Griffie/Williams listings, and my own sense based on ability to find different varieties as a collector. My estimate, which was originally of about 9,200 surviving specimens, is now 12,938.

Should colonial coins be measured by the Sheldon/EAC scale? The Sheldon/EAC scale numeric scale for large cents of R1>1,250, R2=501-1,250, and R3=201-500 seems excessive for the surviving colonial population. However, the tradition of using R1, R2, and R3 for state coinage rarities is not likely to change. The challenge is to find a simple, easy to remember system to resolve this issue.

My proposal for a colonial rarity scale is as follows:

- R1 > 350 (>Sheldon/EAC R3+)
- R2 = 201-350 (=Sheldon/EAC R3+)
- R3 = 138-200 (=Sheldon/EAC R4-)
- R4 = 76-137 (=Sheldon/EAC R4+)
- R5- = 53-75
- R5+ = 31-52
- R6- = 22-30
- R6+ = 13-21
- R7- = 8-12
- R7+ = 4-7
- R8 = 2-3
- R9 = 1

No. Varieties Cumul. Var. Cumul % Population

R1	13	13	42.7
R2	7	20	57.6
R3	8	28	68.1

Summer, 2000**No. Varieties Cumul. Var. Cumul % Population**

R4	18	46	82.9
R5-	14	60	89.8
R5+	18	78	95.6
R6-	12	90	98.0
R6+	4	94	98.5
R7-	9	103	99.2
R7+	10	113	99.6
R8	13	126	99.9
R9	15	141	100.0

Following are three listings of NJ coppers and my rarity estimates. The first one is by variety, the second one by rarity, and the third a listing of each individual obverse and reverse.

By variety

OBV	-REV	R	OBV	-REV	R	OBV	-REV	R
6	-C	4	24	-M	7+	48	-g	1
6	-D	1	24	-P	2	48	-X	7+
7	-C	9	24	-Q	7+	49	-f	5+
7	-E	7+	24	-R	5-	50	-f	4
8	-F	8	25	-S	6-	51	-g	6-
8.5	-C	8	26	-d	8	52	-i	4
9	-G	7+	26	-S	5+	53	-j	4
10	-G	6+	27	-j	6+	54	-k	3
10	-gg	8	27	-S	5+	55	-l	5+
10	-h	7-	28	-L	3	55	-m	4
10	-oo	9	28	-S	5-	56	-n	1
10.5	-C	9	29	-L	4	57	-n	6+
11	-G	9	29.5	-L	9	58	-n	5-
11	-H	6-	30	-L	4	59	-o	5+
11	-hh	9	31	-L	3	60	-p	4
11.5	-G	7-	32	-T	1	61	-p	5-
12	-G	5-	33	-U	4	62	-q	1
12	-I	5+	34	-J	3	62	-r	8
13	-J	6-	34	-V	6-	62.5	-r	9
14	-J	1	35	-J	6-	63	-q	1
15	-J	4	35	-W	7+	63	-r	5-
15	-L	4	36	-J	7-	63	-s	1
15	-T	4	37	-f	4	64	-t	1
15	-U	5+	37	-J	5+	64	-u	5+

16 -d	7+	37 -X	7-	64.5 -r	9
16 -J	6-	37 -Y	5-	65 -u	3
16 -L	1	38 -a	5+	66 -u	7+
16 -S	9	38 -b	6+	66 -v	5+
17 -b	2	38 -c	3	67 -v	1
17 -J	5-	38 -L	9	68 -w	5-
17 -K	3	38 -Y	4	69 -w	8
18 -J	5+	38 -Z	5-	70 -x	7-
18 -L	9	39 -a	2	71 -y	6-
18 -M	2	40 -b	5+	72 -z	6-
18 -N	5+	41 -c	6+	72.5 -aa	9
19 -M	5-	42 -c	5+	73 -aa	5+
20 -N	5-	42.5 -c	9	73.5 -aa	8
21 -N	3	43 -d	1	74 -bb	6-
21 -O	5-	43 -Y	4	75 -bb	4
21 -P	5+	44 -c	7-	76 -cc	7+
21 -R	7-	44 -d	4	77 -dd	2
21.5 -R	8	45 -d	5+	79 -ee	8
22 -P	7-	45 -e	5-	80 -ff	9
23 -P	2	46 -e	1	81 -ll	8
23 -R	2	47 -e	6-	83 -ii	7-
23.5 -R	7+	47.5 -e	8	84 -kk	8
24 -I	8	48 -f	4	85 -nn	9

By rarity

OBV -REV	R	OBV -REV	R	OBV -REV	R
6 -D	1	12 -G	5-	10 -h	7-
14 -J	1	17 -J	5-	11.5 -G	7-
16 -L	1	19 -M	5-	21 -R	7-
32 -T	1	20 -N	5-	22 -P	7-
43 -d	1	21 -O	5-	36 -J	7-
46 -e	1	24 -R	5-	37 -X	7-
48 -g	1	28 -S	5-	44 -c	7-
56 -n	1	37 -Y	5-	70 -x	7-
62 -q	1	38 -Z	5-	83 -ii	7-
63 -q	1	45 -e	5-	7 -E	7+
63 -s	1	58 -n	5-	9 -G	7+
64 -t	1	61 -p	5-	16 -d	7+
67 -v	1	63 -r	5-	23.5 -R	7+
17 -b	2	68 -w	5-	24 -M	7+
18 -M	2	12 -I	5+	24 -Q	7+
23 -P	2	15 -U	5+	35 -W	7+
23 -R	2	18 -J	5+	48 -X	7+
24 -P	2	18 -N	5+	66 -u	7+
39 -a	2	21 -P	5+	76 -cc	7+

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77 - dd	2	26 - S	5+	8 - F	8
17 - K	3	27 - S	5+	8.5 - C	8
21 - N	3	37 - J	5+	10 - gg	8
28 - L	3	38 - a	5+	21.5 - R	8
31 - L	3	40 - b	5+	24 - i	8
34 - J	3	42 - c	5+	26 - d	8
38 - c	3	45 - d	5+	47.5 - e	8
54 - k	3	49 - f	5+	62 - r	8
65 - u	3	55 - l	5+	69 - w	8
6 - C	4	59 - o	5+	73.5 - aa	8
15 - J	4	64 - u	5+	79 - ee	8
15 - L	4	66 - v	5+	81 - ll	8
15 - T	4	73 - aa	5+	84 - kk	8
29 - L	4	11 - H	6-	7 - C	9
30 - L	4	13 - J	6-	10 - oo	9
33 - U	4	16 - J	6-	10.5 - C	9
37 - f	4	25 - S	6-	11 - G	9
38 - Y	4	34 - V	6-	11 - hh	9
43 - Y	4	35 - J	6-	16 - S	9
44 - d	4	41 - c	6-	18 - L	9
48 - f	4	47 - e	6-	29.5 - L	9
50 - f	4	51 - g	6-	38 - L	9
52 - i	4	71 - y	6-	42.5 - c	9
53 - j	4	72 - z	6-	62.5 - r	9
55 - m	4	74 - bb	6-	64.5 - r	9
60 - p	4	10 - G	6+	72.5 - aa	9
75 - bb	4	27 - j	6+	80 - ff	9
		38 - b	6+	85 - nn	9
		57 - n	6+		

By individual dies

DIE	SURV.	DIE	SURV.	DIE	SURV.
L	1086	31	169	25	26
J	936	54	169	41	26
63	914	65	169	47	26
q	850	U	148	51	26
P	603	55	148	71	26
d	581	bb	133	72	26
23	551	j	124	74	26
48	537	44	117	57	17
T	532	C	111	X	16
6	532	i	107	h	10
43	532	m	107	ii	10
e	518	29	107	x	10
17	509	30	107	11.5	10

n	506	33	107	22	10
v	467	50	107	36	10
64	467	52	107	70	10
16	458	53	107	83	10
g	451	60	107	7	7
62	428	75	107	cc	6
D	425	12	106	E	6
s	425	45	106	Q	6
t	425	G	98	W	6
14	425	r	69	9	6
32	425	w	67	23.5	6
46	425	O	64	76	6
56	425	Z	64	ee	3
67	425	19	64	F	3
38	399	20	64	gg	3
f	361	58	64	kk	3
15	361	61	64	ll	3
18	360	68	64	8	3
R	358	27	59	8.5	3
24	353	66	47	21.5	3
M	345	aa	45	47.5	3
b	334	l	44	69	3
a	317	26	44	73.5	3
21	285	l	42	79	3
Y	277	o	42	81	3
dd	276	40	42	84	3
39	276	42	42	ff	1
77	276	49	42	hh	1
N	275	59	42	nn	1
c	248	73	42	oo	1
28	233	35	32	10.5	1
37	222	10	31	29.5	1
u	216	11	28	42.5	1
34	195	H	26	62.5	1
S	174	V	26	64.5	1
p	171	y	26	72.5	1
K	169	z	26	80	1
k	169	13	26	85	1



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Auction Notes

By John Griffiee

If you are interested in adding information to auction catalogs, then consider the following.

BOWERS & MORENA, Lindesmith, March 23-24, 2000, LOT 4:

One of the best-described farthings in a long time! Since only one triple-dot punctuation was mentioned, I believe it is safe to call this coin a B212.3. It's sad when one receives the prices realized list and you discover you were the runner-up bidder.

EARLY AMERICAN HISTORY AUCTIONS, INC., April 22, 2000:

Lot 991: I hate to give up on a coin but after comparing about 150 B208 photographs, and finding no match, I cried, "UNCLE". Three critical areas for punctuation marks are missing or weak. There is an unusual diebreak from the bottom of the crown to the end of the King's chin but that didn't help. Until I can actually see the coin it will have to remain a plain B208.

Lot 992: This coin was photographed at FUN, 2000, #73529. I called this farthing a "B211.4?" because I cannot determine if there is additional punctuation after the "5" on the reverse. Since this is the only example of this die variety that I have seen, it will be pictured in my book. Let us hope another example is discovered so the punctuation number can be finalized.

Lot 993: I would call this coin B212.9. Although you can count seven dots of punctuation from the catalog photograph, I have photographs of two additional examples of this die variety which show a colon before the "R" on the obverse. I own one and the other example belongs to a Mass. collector.

Lot 994: I would call this coin B217.4. I know of six additional examples of this die variety and this auction coin would probably tie

my coin for the second finest known. I do not know the grade or location of the coin from the EAN auction of 9/16/95, Lot 350--the new owner has never been identified.

Lot 995: This coin was photographed at FUN 2000, #73530. Yes, I told Dana this coin is a B218.2. And, especially for the new owner, it is the finest of only three known of this variety. The second finest is my coin, graded only VG and the other example is a porous G owned by a collector in Ireland. Just for the record: Breen estimated three different varieties of B218--I now have photographic evidence of nine different die varieties.

If the winning bidders of all the above auction lots will advise me, it will help Stan Stephens with his work to develop a National Register of all St. Patrick coins, AND, of course, a more accurate and complete book.

I can be contacted at [REDACTED]
[REDACTED], or E-mail StPatrickone@aol.com.



Update on Machin's mills coppers

by Ed Sarrafian and Richard August

We have a few things to report on Machin's since the focus group was formed at last years C-4 convention.

Stack's offered a group of 19 Machin's in their March sale. Most were lower grade problem coins. A buyers fee of 15% is to be added to the following prices. A granular Vlack 6-76A in fine condition brought \$275, a VF 17-87A brought \$475, a nice AXF 19-87C brought \$700, and a granular fine/good 22-88VT(Ryder-31) brought \$600.

Other fresh pieces of interest that came up on the auction market were a 3-71B late die state which was dark and rough and graded f-

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vf, a clipped 14-84A in about good which at 131.2 grains may be the heaviest known for the variety, and a 6-76A in vf-xf.

In private finds Richard August turned up a vf 8-74A and a lightly granular vf-xf 21-87D II.

We would like to begin a question and answer forum in our Machin's focus group. Anyone with questions please write, Ed Sarrafian

[REDACTED] or Richard August [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



St. Patrick's Coinage Projects

By John Griffiee

There are two projects underway regarding St. Patrick's coinage.

- 1- Stan Stephens (address in front of newsletter under club officers) is preparing a reference listing of all known coins in the hands of US collectors.
- 2- I am working on a book on these coins. It will cover more than you ever wanted to know about St. Patrick's coinage, including early history, facts about Marc Newby, enlargements of all known die varieties (at least 200 or more), and an attribution and rarity guide.

Well-known photographer and copper expert, Bill Noyes, is the official photographer for both of the above projects.

Please help us with these two projects. Let me know if you have any of these coins, even if your collection contains only one of these coins. Stan and I will see how we can have your coin(s) photographed. Bill attends the C4, EAC, and FUN conventions, plus a limited number of additional shows on both the East and West coasts.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

John M. Griffiee



New Jersey Coin Slides

By John Griffiee

I seems like yesterday but it has been almost five years since the McCawley-Grellman auction of the John M. Griffiee collection of St. Patrick and New Jersey Colonial coinage at the first annual Colonial Coin Collectors Club convention.

Although some slides of my coins were distributed with the auction lots, some were held back because they were part of my New Jersey slide-lecture program.

Most C4 members know that since the auction, all my numismatic energy has been focused on the St. Patrick coinage area. Because of this, I have dismantled my NJ lecture material and many slides are now available. All slides for coins not in the Griffiee auction have been forwarded to Ray Williams.

I am listing below the eight auction lots where the slides are now available. I will bring these slides to the C4 convention in November and give them, signed and labeled, FREE, to the current owners.

Lot	#28	17K
Lot	#33	18M
Lot	#68	41c
Lot	#80	48g
Lot	#83	50f
Lot	#92	56n
Lot	#96	59o
Lot	#116	77dd

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If you can't wait, or are not going to the C4 convention, send me \$1 to cover postage and handling, and I will send them out by return mail.

Slides not picked up at the convention will be turned over to Ray Williams to be used as needed for his ongoing study of New Jersey coinage.



Unclassified Ads

Ed Sarrafian



Wanted to buy, Machins Mills Coppers!

Varieties: Vlack 4-71C, 9-76B small date, 13-87CT in any grade.

Please call, write, or ship with price desired.



WANTED: "E.B." countermarked (foreign gold) coin. ALSO

WANTED:

Colonial countermarked coins, especially silversmith and gunsmith countermarks, for my research collection.

Bob Merchant



vermont@mindspring.com



WANTING TO PURCHASE: Low grade colonial coinage, colonial duplicates and currency, pin notes, sewn together pieces or other era

related paper items of interest. Please write me with information on your items for sale. Thank you.

Send to: Walter Deleu- C4



Desperately Wanted:

Choice Mint State Red Book Type Colonials! Getz Silver & Copper Washington Pieces, Silver Myddelton Tokens (with/without box), Gem Mint state Pillar dollars, Rarity-7 and Rarity-8 Connecticut's. Also: all early (pre 1835) US gold- especially rare dates and die varieties.

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**“VARIETY CHECKLIST AND RARITY RATINGS FOR
AMERICAN COLONIAL ISSUES AND STATE COINAGES” 23**

pages covering those issues most commonly collected by variety;
loose-leaf format for convenience.

Revised quantities for rarity 1,2 and 3. Corrections to the rarity ratings (yes, there will be some) will be announced in the C4 Newsletter over the years. This is a long term, evolving project.

Price: \$15.00, which includes postage. Available from:

1. **Introduction**
 2. **Background**
 3. **Methodology**
 4. **Results**
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 216. **Figure 207**
 217. **Figure 208**

Wanted: Back copies of the C4 Newsletter. Also wanted are back issues of Coin World, Numismatic News, and any other periodical covering US numismatics.

[REDACTED]

I desire to correspond with anyone who has an interest in the tokens, medals, dies, craftsmanship, biographies, and other aspects of Boston engraver Joseph H. Merriam and Springfield engraver James A. Bolen. Also, I would like to purchase and would pay full retail price for any Bolen colonial copies of different metals and mulings that I do not presently have. Correspondence is invited.

[REDACTED]

Barry Tayman and I, under a grant from the ANS, are working on a monograph on Canadian Blacksmith tokens. We are seeking information from collectors, especially about the rarer pieces. I can be contacted at my home address or through my web site.

[REDACTED]

Fuld1@home.com

Imitation halfpence coppers (Redbook group I, II and III) in VF to EF condition. All dates wanted.

Please call Min at [REDACTED], or E-mail at Unifilis@aol.com

Wanted, cull to mid-grade:

Virginia halfpennies

Colonial and Continental currency

Also wanted: biographical information on the lesser known signers of Continental and colonial currency. Will pay for referenced information I don't have.

██████████

Reminder!

***Start thinking about paying the club dues for
2000 if you have not done so yet.
See page 9 for details if you missed it.***



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